

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. **(Currently Amended)** An isolated serine protease obtained from a member of [[the]] suborder *Micrococccineae* having at least [[70%]] 90% amino acid identity with the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:8.
2. **(Original)** The serine protease of Claim 1, wherein said protease is a cellulomonadin.
3. **(Original)** The serine protease of Claim 1, wherein said protease is obtained from an organism selected from the group consisting of *Cellulomonas*, *Oerskovia*, *Cellulosimicrobium*, *Xylanibacterium*, and *Promicromonospora*.
4. **(Original)** The serine protease of Claim 3, wherein said protease is obtained from *Cellulomonas* 69B4.
5. **(Original)** The serine protease of Claim 4, wherein said protease comprises the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:8.
6. **(Original)** A composition comprising an isolated serine protease having immunological cross-reactivity with said serine protease of Claim 4.
7. **(Original)** A composition comprising an isolated serine protease having immunological cross-reactivity with said serine protease of Claim 1.
8. **(Canceled)**
9. **(Withdrawn)** The serine protease of Claim 4, wherein said serine protease comprises at least one amino acid substitution at a position selected from the group comprising positions 2, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 24, 26, 31, 33, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 43, 46, 49, 51, 54, 61, 64, 65, 67, 70, 71, 76, 78, 79, 81, 83, 85, 86, 90, 93, 99, 100, 105, 107, 109, 112, 113, 116, 118, 119, 121, 123, 127, 145, 155, 159, 160, 163, 165, 170, 174, 179, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, and 188, wherein said substitutions are at positions equivalent to the positions set forth in SEQ ID NO:8.

10. **(Withdrawn)** The serine protease of Claim 4, wherein said serine protease comprises at least one amino acid substitution at a position selected from the group comprising positions 1, 4, 22, 27, 28, 30, 32, 41, 47, 48, 55, 59, 63, 66, 69, 75, 77, 80, 84, 87, 88, 89, 92, 96, 110, 111, 114, 115, 117, 128, 134, 144, 143, 146, 151, 154, 156, 158, 161, 166, 176, 177, 181, 182, 187, and 189, wherein said substitutions are at positions equivalent to the positions set forth in SEQ ID NO:8.

11. **(Withdrawn)** An isolated protease variant having an amino acid sequence comprising at least one substitution of an amino acid made at a position equivalent to a position in a *Cellulomonas* 69B4 protease comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:8, wherein said protease variant comprises at least 70% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:8.

12. **(Withdrawn)** The isolated protease of Claim 11, wherein said substitution is made at an amino acid position equivalent to position 2, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 24, 26, 31, 33, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 43, 46, 49, 51, 54, 61, 64, 65, 67, 70, 71, 76, 78, 79, 81, 83, 85, 86, 90, 93, 99, 100, 105, 107, 109, 112, 113, 116, 118, 119, 121, 123, 127, 145, 155, 159, 160, 163, 165, 170, 174, 179, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, or 188 in a *Cellulomonas* 69B4 protease comprising an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:8.

13. **(Withdrawn)** The isolated protease of Claim 11, wherein said substitution is made at an amino acid position equivalent to position 1, 4, 22, 27, 28, 30, 32, 41, 47, 48, 55, 59, 63, 66, 69, 75, 77, 80, 84, 87, 88, 89, 92, 96, 110, 111, 114, 115, 117, 128, 134, 144, 143, 146, 151, 154, 156, 158, 161, 166, 176, 177, 181, 182, 187, or 189, in a *Cellulomonas* 69B4 protease comprising an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:8.

14. **(Withdrawn)** An isolated protease variant of SEQ ID NO:8 comprising at least one amino acid substitution at a position selected from the group consisting of 14, 16, 35, 36, 65, 75, 76, 79, 123, 127, 159, and 179, wherein said substitution is at a position equivalent to the positions set forth in SEQ ID NO:8.

15. **(Withdrawn)** The protease of Claim 14, wherein said protease comprises at least one mutation selected from the group consisting of R14L, R16I, R16L, R16Q, R35F, T36S, G65Q, Y75G, N76L, N76V, R79T, R123L, R123Q, R127A, R127K, R127Q, R159K, R159Q, and R179Q.

16. **(Withdrawn)** The protease of Claim 15, wherein said protease comprises multiple mutations selected from the group consisting of R16Q/R35F/R159Q, R16Q/R123L, R14L/R127Q/R159Q, R14L/R179Q, R123L/R127Q/R179Q, R16Q/R79T/R127Q, and R16Q/R79T.

17. **(Withdrawn)** The protease of Claim 15, wherein said protease comprises the following mutations R123L, R127Q, and R179Q.

18. **(Withdrawn)** The protease of Claim 11, wherein the amino acid sequence of said protease comprises at least one substitution selected from the group consisting of T36I, A38R, N170Y, N73T, G77T, N24A, T36G, N24E, L69S, T36N, T36S, E119R, N74G, T36W, S76W, N24T, N24Q, T36P, S76Y, T36H, G54D, G78A, S187P, R179V, N24V, V90P, T36D, L69H, G65P, G65R, N7L, W103M, N55F, G186E, A70H, S76V, G186V, R159F, T36Y, T36V, G65V, N24M, S51A, G65Y, Q71I, V66H, P118A, T116F, A38F, N24H, V66D, S76L, G177M, G186I, H85Q, Q71K, Q71G, G65S, A38D, P118F, A38S, G65T, N67G, T36R, P118R, S114G, Y75I, I181H, G65Q, Y75G, T36F, A38H, R179M, T183I, G78S, A64W, Y75F, G77S, N24L, W103I, V3L, Q81V, R179D, G54R, T36L, Q71M, A70S, G49F, G54L, G54H, G78H, R179I, Q81K, V90I, A38L, N67L, T109I, R179N, V66I, G78T, R179Y, S187T, N67K, N73S, E119K, V3I, Q71H, I11Q, A64H, R14E, R179T, L69V, V150L, Q71A, G65L, Q71N, V90S, A64N, I11A, N145I, H85T, A64Y, N145Q, V66L, S92G, S188M, G78D, N67A, N7S, V80H, G54K, A70D, P118H, D2G, G54M, Q81H, D2Q, V66E, R79P, A38N, N145E, R179L, T109H, R179K, V66A, G54A, G78N, T109A, R179A, N7A, R179E, H104K, A64R, and V80L.

19. **(Withdrawn)** The protease of Claim 11, wherein the amino acid sequence of said protease comprises at least one substitution selected from the group consisting of H85R, H85L, T62I, N67H, G54I, N24F, T40V, T86A, G63V, G54Q, A64F, G77Y, R35F, T129S, R61M, I126L,

S76N, T182V, R79G, T109P, R127F, R123E, P118I, T109R, I71S, T183K, N67T, P89N, F1T, A64K, G78I, T109L, G78V, A64M, A64S, T10G, G77N, A64L, N67D, S76T, N42H, D184F, D184R, S76I, S78R, A38K, V72I, V3T, T107S, A38V, F47I, N55Q, S76E, P118Q, T109G, Q71D, P118K, N67S, Q167N, N145G, I28L, I11T, A64I, G49K, G49A, G65A, N170D, H85K, S185I, I181N, V80F, L69W, S76R, D184H, V150M, T183M, N67Q, S51Q, A38Y, T107V, N145T, Q71F, A83N, S76A, N67R, T151L, T163L, S51F, Q81I, F47M, A41N, P118E, N67Y, T107M, N73H, 67V, G63W, T10K, I181G, S187E, T107H, D2A, L142V, A143N, A8G, S187L, V90A, G49L, N170L, G65H, T36C, G12W, S76Q, A143S, F1A, N7H, S185V, A110T, N55K, N67F, N7I, A110S, N170A, Q81D, A64Q, Q71L, A38I, N112I, V90T, N145L, A64T, I11S, A30S, R123I, D2H, V66M, Q71R, V90L, L68W, N24S, R159E, V66N, D184Q, E133Q, A64V, D2N, G13M, T40S, S76K, G177S, G63Q, S15F, A8K, A70G, and A38G.

20. *(Withdrawn)* The protease of Claim 11, wherein the amino acid sequence of said protease comprises at least one substitution selected from the group consisting of R35E, R35D, R14E, R14D, Q167E, G49C, S15R, S15H, I11W, S15C, G49Q, R35Q, R35V, G49E, R123D, R123Y, G49H, A38D, R35S, F47R, R123C, T151L, R14T, R35T, R123E, G49A, G49V, D56L, R35N, R35A, G12D, R35C, R123N, T46V, R123H, S155C, T121E, R127E, S113C, R123T, R16E, T46F, T121L, A38C, T46E, R123W, T44E, N55G, A8G, E119G, R35P, R14G, F59W, R127S, R61E, R14S, S155W, R123F, R123S, G49N, R127D, E119Y, A48E, N170D, R159T, S99A, G12Q, P118R, F165W, R127Q, R35H, G12N, A22C, G12V, R16T, Y57G, T100A, T46Y, R159E, E119R, T107R, T151C, G54C, E119T, R61V, I11E, R14I, R61M, S15E, A22S, R16C, T36C, R16V, L125Q, M180L, R123Q, R14A, R14Q, R35M, R127K, R159Q, N112P, G124D, R179E, G49L, A41D, G177D, R123V, E119V, T10L, T109E, R179D, G12S, T10C, G91Q, S15Y, S155Y, R14C, T163D, T121F, R14N, F165E, N24E, A41C, R61T, G12I, P118K, T46C, I11T, R159D, N170C, R159V, S155I, I11Q, D2P, T100R, R159S, S114C, R16D, and P134R.

21. *(Withdrawn)* The protease of Claim 11, wherein the amino acid sequence of said protease comprises at least one substitution selected from the group consisting of S99G, T100K, R127A, F1P, S155V, T128A, F165H, G177E, A70M, S140P, A87E, D2I, R159K, T36V, R179C, E119N, T10Y, I172A, A8T, F47V, W103L, R61K, D2V, R179V, D2T, R159N, E119A, G54E,

R16Q, G49S, R16I, S51L, S155E, S15M, R179I, T10Q, G12H, R159C, R179T, T163C, R159A, A132S, N157D, G13E, L141M, A41T, R123M, R14M, A8R, Q81P, N24T, T10D, A88F, R61Q, S99K, R179Y, T121A, N112E, S155T, T151V, S99Q, T10E, S92T, T109K, T44C, R123A, A87C, S15F, S155F, D56F, T10F, A83H, R179M, T121D, G13D, P118C, G49F, Q174C, S114E, T86E, F1N, T115C, R127C, R123K, V66N, G12Y, S113A, S15N, A175T, R79T, R123G, R179S, R179N, R123I, P118A, S187E, N112D, A70G, E119L, E119S, R159M, R14H, R179F, A64C, A41S, R179W, N24G, T100Q, P118W, Q81G, G49K, R14L, N55A, R35K, R79V, D2M, T160D, A83D, R179L, S51A, G12P, S99H, N42D, S188E, T10M, L125M, T116N, A70P, Q174S, G65D, S113D, E119Q, A83E, N170L, Q81A, S51C, P118G, Q174T, I28V, S15G, and T116G.

22. *(Withdrawn)* The protease of Claim 11, wherein the amino acid sequence of said protease comprises at least one substitution selected from the group consisting of G26I, G26K, G26Q, G26V, G26W, F27V, F27W, I28P, T29E, T129W, T40D, T40Q, R43D, P43H, P43K, P43L, A22C, T40H, P89W, G91L, S18E, F59K, A30M, A30N, G31M, C33M, G161L, G161V, P43N, G26E, N73P, G84C, G84P, G45V, C33L, Y9E, Y9P, A147E, C158H, I28W, A48P, A22S, T62R, S137R, S155P, S155R, G156I, G156L, Q81A, R96C, I4D, I4P, A70P, C105E, C105G, C105K, C105M, C105N, C105S, T128A, T128V, T128G, S140P, G12D, C33N, C33E, T164G, G45A, G156P, S99A, Q167L, S155W, I28T, R96F, A30P, R123W, T40P, T39R, C105P, T100A, C105W, S155K, T46Y, R123F, I4G, S155Y, T46V, A93S, Y57N, Q81S, G186S, G31H, T10Y, G31V, A83H, A38D, R123Y, R79T, C158G, G31Y, Q81P, R96E, A30Y, R159K, A22T, T40N, Y57M, G31N, Q81G, T164L, T121E, T10F, Q146P, R123N, V3R, P43G, Q81H, Q81D, G161I, C158M, N24T, T10W, T128S, T160I, Y176P, S155F, T128C, L125A, P168Y, T62G, F166S, S188A, Q81F, T46W, A70G, and A38G.

23. *(Withdrawn)* The protease of Claim 11, wherein the amino acid sequence of said protease comprises at least one substitution selected from the group consisting of S188E, S188V, Y117K, Y117Q, Y117R, Y117V, R127K, R127Q, R123L, T86S, R123I, Q81E, L125M, H32A, S188T, N74F, C33D, F27I, A83M, Q71Y, R123T, V90A, F59W, L141C, N170E, T46F, S51V, G162P, S185R, A41S, R79V, T151C, T107S, T129Y, M180L, F166C, C105T, T160E, P89A, R159T, T183P, S188M, T10L, G25S, N24S, E119L, T107L, T107Q, G161K, G15Q, S15R,

G153K, G153V, S188G, A83E, G186P, T121D, G49A, S15C, C105Y, C105A, R127F, Q71A, T10C, R179K, T86I, W103N, A87S, F166A, A83F, R123Q, A132C, A143H, T163I, T39V, A93D, V90M, R123K, P134W, G177N, V115I, S155T, T110D, G105L, N170D, T107A, G84V, G84M, L111K, P168I, G154L, T183I, S99G, S15T, A8G, S15N, P189S, S188C, T100Q, A110G, A121A, G12A, R159V, G31A, G154R, T182L, V115L, T160Q, T107F, R159Q, G144A, S92T, T101S, A83R, G12HM S15H, T116Q, T36V, G154, Q81C, V130T, T183A, P118T, A87E, T86M, V150N, and N24E.

24. **(Withdrawn)** The protease of Claim 11, wherein the amino acid sequence of said protease comprises at least one substitution selected from the group consisting of T36I, I172T, N24E, N170Y, G77T, G186N, I181L, N73T, A38R, N74G, N24A, G54D, S76D, R123E, I59E, N112E, R35E, R179V, R123D, N24T, R179T, R14L, A38D, V90P, R14Q, R123I, R179D, S76V, R79G, R35L, S76E, S76Y, R79D, R79P, R35Q, R179N, N112D, R179E, G65P, Y75G, V90S, R179M, R35F, R123F, A64I, N24Q, R14I, R179A, R127A, R179I, N170D, R35A, R159F, T109E, R14D, N67D, G49A, N112Q, G78D, T121E, L69S, T116E, V90I, T36S, T36G, N145E, T86D, S51D, R179K, T107E, T129S, L142V, R79A, R79E, A38H, T107S, R123A, N55E, R123L, R159N, G65D, R14N, G65Q, R123Q, N24V, R14G, T116Q, A38N, R159Q, R179Y, A83E, N112L, S99N, G78A, T10N, H85Q, R35Q, N24L, N24H, G49S, R79L, S76T, S76L, G65S, N55F, R79V, G65T, R123N, T86E, Y75F, F1T, S76N, S99V, R79T, N112V, R79M, T107V, R79S, G54E, G65V, R127Q, R159D, T107H, H85T, R35T, T36N, Q81E, R123H, S76I, A38F, V90T, and R14T.

25. **(Withdrawn)** The protease of Claim 11, wherein the amino acid sequence of said protease comprises at least one substitution selected from the group consisting of G65L, S99D, T107M, S113T, S99T, G77S, R14M, A64N, R61M, A70D, Q71G, A93D, S92G, N112Y, S15W, R159K, N67G, T10E, R127H, A64Y, R159C, A38L, T160E, T183E, R127S, A8E, S51Q, N7L, G63D, A38S, R35H, R14K, T107I, G12D, A64L, S76W, A41N, R35M, A64V, A38Y, T183I, W103M, A41D, R127K, T36D, R61T, G65Y, G13S, R35Y, R123T, A64H, G49H, A70H, A64F, R127Y, R61E, A64P, T121D, V115A, R123Y, T101S, T182V, H85L, N24M, R127E, N145D, Q71H, S76Q, A64T, G49F, A64Q, T10D, F1D, A70G, R35W, Q71D, N121I, A64M, T36H, A8G,

T107N, R35S, N67T, S92A, N170L, N67E, S114A, R14A, R14S, Q81D, S51H, R123S, A93S, R127F, I19V, T40V, S185N, R123G, R179L, S51V, T163D, T109I, A64S, V72I, N67S, R159S, H85M, T109G, Q71S, R61H, T107A, Q81V, V90N, T109A, A38T, N145T, R159A, A110S, Q81H, A48E, S51T, A64W, R159L, N67H, A93E, T116F, R61S, R123V, V3L, and R159Y.

26. *(Withdrawn)* The protease of Claim 11, wherein the amino acid sequence of said protease comprises at least one substitution selected from the group consisting of T36I, P89D, A93T, A93S, T36N, N73T, T36G, R159F, T36S, A38R, S99W, S76W, T36P, G77T, G54D, R127A, R159E, H85Q, T36D, S76L, S99N, Y75G, S76Y, R127S, N24E, R127Q, D184F, N170Y, N24A, S76T, H85L, Y75F, S76V, L69S, R159K, R127K, G65P, N74G, R159H, G65Q, G186V, A48Q, T36H, N67L, R14I, R127L, T36Y, S76I, S114G, R127H, S187P, V3L, G78D, R123I, I181Q, R35F, H85R, R127Y, N67S, Q81P, R123F, R159N, S99A, S76D, A132V, R127F, A143N, S92A, N24T, R79P, S76N, R14M, G186E, N24Q, N67A, R127T, H85K, G65T, G65Y, R179V, Y75I, I11Q, A38L, T36L, R159Y, R159D, N24V, G65S, N157D, G186I, G54Q, N67Y, R127G, S76A, A38S, T109E, V66H, T116F, R123L, G49A, A64H, T36W, D184H, S99D, G161K, P134E, A64F, N67G, S99T, D2Q, S76E, R16Q, G54N, N67V, R35L, Q71I, N7L, N112E, L69H, N24H, G54I, R16L, N24M, A64Y, S113A, H85F, R79G, I11A, T121D, R61V, and G65L.

27. *(Withdrawn)* The protease of Claim 11, wherein the amino acid sequence of said protease comprises at least one substitution selected from the group consisting of N67Q, S187Q, Q71H, T163D, R61K, R159V, Q71F, V31F, V90I, R79D, T160E, R123Q, A38Y, S113G, A88F, A70G, I11T, G78A, N24L, S92G, R14L, D184R, G54L, N112L, H85Y, R16N, G77S, R179T, V80L, G65V, T121E, Q71D, R16G, P89N, N42H, G49F, I11S, R61M, R159C, G65R, T183I, A93D, L111E, S51Q, G78N, N67T, A38N, T40V, A64W, R159L, T10E, R179K, R123E, V90P, A64N, G161E, H85T, A8G, L142V, A41N, S185I, Q71L, A64T, R16I, A38D, G54M, N112Q, R16A, R14E, V80H, N170D, S99G, R179N, S15E, G49H, A70P, A64S, G54A, S185W, R61H, T10Q, A38F, N170L, T10L, N67F, G12D, D184T, R14N, S187E, R14P, N112D, S140A, N112G, G49S, L111D, N67M, V150L, G12Y, R123K, P89V, V66D, G77N, S51T, A8D, I181H, T86N, R179D, N55F, N24S, D184L, R61S, N67K, G186L, F1T, R159A, I11L, R61T, D184Q, A93E,

Q71T, R179E, L69W, T163I, S188Q, L125V, A38V, R35A, P134G, A64V, N145D, V90T, and A143S.

28. *(Withdrawn)* The protease of Claim 11, wherein the amino acid sequence of said protease comprises at least one substitution selected from the group consisting of T36I, N170Y, A38R, R79P, G77T, L69S, N73T, S76V, S76Y, R179V, T36N, N55F, R159F, G54D, G65P, L69H, T36G, G177M, N24E, N74G, R159E, T36S, Y75G, S76I, S76D, A8R, A24A, V90P, R159C, G65Q, T121E, A8V, S76L, T109E, R179M, A8T, T107N, G186E, S76W, R123E, A38F, T36P, N67G, Y75F, S76N, R179I, S187P, N67V, V90S, R127A, R179Y, R35F, N145S, G65S, R61M, S51A, R179N, R123D, N24T, N55E, R79C, G186V, R123I, G161E, G65Y, A38S, R14L, V90I, R79G, N145E, N67L, R127S, R150Y, M180D, N67T, A93D, T121D, Q81V, T109I, A93E; T107S, R179T, R179L, R179K, R159D, R179A, R79E, R123F, R79D, T36D, A64N, L142V, T109A, I127V, A83N, T85A, R179D, A38L, I126L, R127Q, R127L, L69W, R127K, G65T, R127H, P134A, N67D, R14M, N24Q, A143N, N55S, N67M., S51D, S76E, T163D, A38D, R159K, T183I, G63V, A8S, T107M, H85Q, N112E, N67F, N67S, A64H, T86I, P134E, T182V, N67Y, A64S, G78D, V90T, R61T, R16Q, G65R, T86L, V90N, R159Q, G54I, S76C, R179E, V66D, L69V, R127Y, R35L, R14E, and T86F.

29. *(Withdrawn)* The protease of Claim 11, wherein the amino acid sequence of said protease comprises at least one substitution selected from the group consisting of G186I, A64Q, T109G, G64L, N24L, A8E, N112D, A38H, R179W, S114G, R123L, A8L, T129S, N170D, R159N, N67C, S92C, T107A, G54E, T107E, T36V, R127T, A8N, H85L, A110S, N170C, A64R, A132V, T36Y, G63D, W103M, T151V, R123P, W103Y, S76T, S187T, R127F, N67A, P171M, A70S, R159H, S76Q, L125V, G54Q, G49L, R14I, R14Q, A83I, V90L, T183E, R159A, T101S, G65D, G54A, T107Q, Q71M, T86E, N24M, N55Q, R61V, P134D, R96K, A88F, N145Q, A64M, A64T, N24V, S140A, A8H, A64I, R123Q, T183Q, N24H, A64W, T62I, T129G, R35A, T40V, I11T, A38N, N145G, A175T, G77Q, T109H, A8P, R35E, T109N, A110T, N67Q, G63P, H85R, S92G, A175V, S51Q, G63Q, T116F, G65A, R79L, N145P, L69Q, Q146D, A83D, F166Y, R123A, T121L, R123H, A70P, T182W, S76A, A64F, T107H, G186L, Q81I, R123K, A64L, N67R, V3L, S187E, S161K, T86M, I4M, G77N, G49A, A41N, G54M, T107V, Q81E, A38I, T109L,

T183K, A70G, Q71D, T183L, Q81H, A64V, A93Q, S188E, S51F, G186P, G186T, R159L, P134G, N145T, N55V, V66E, R159V, Y176L, and R16L.

30. **(Withdrawn)** The protease of Claim 11, wherein the amino acid sequence of said protease comprises at least one substitution selected from the group consisting of T36I, N73T, P134R, G77T, N24E, P134E, P134L, N24T, I59F, L69S, T10G, G186S, S140A, T36S, N112S, N24Q, T36G, P134H, G34A, N24A, A38T, E119R, G186E, R14M, S76W, T10A, A38F, L142V, N170Y, P134V, A22V, S76V, T182V, S76Y, I11A, I11S, S118A, G186V, L69H, I11T, T36N, G65V, G49F, V90I, R179V, R16K, T163I, R127F, R159K, N24L, Q71I, S15G, S15F, R14G, S99N, T10L, S15E, T107R, F166Y, G49A, V90P, P134D, Q167N, S76D, S51A, V80A, V150L, N74G, T107K, S76L, N24V, G12I, S99V, and R16N.

31. **(Withdrawn)** The protease of Claim 11, wherein the amino acid of said protease comprises Arg14, Ser15, Arg16, Cys17, His32, Cys33, Phe52, Asp56, Thr100, Val115, Thr116, Tyr117, Pro118, Glu119, Ala132, Glu133, Pro134, Gly135, Asp136, Ser137, Thr151, Ser152, Gly153, Gly154, Ser155, Gly156, Asn157, Thr164, and Phe165.

32. **(Withdrawn)** The protease of Claim 31, wherein the catalytic triad of said protease comprises His 32, Asp56, and Ser137.

33. **(Withdrawn)** The protease of Claim 11, wherein the amino acid sequence of said protease comprises Cys131, Ala132, Glu133, Pro134, Gly135, Thr151, Ser152, Gly153, Gly154, Ser155, Gly156, Asn157 and Gly 162, Thr 163, and Thr164.

34. **(Withdrawn)** The protease of Claim 11, wherein the amino acid sequence of said protease comprises Phe52, Tyr117, Pro118 and Glu119.

35. **(Withdrawn)** The protease of Claim 11, wherein the amino acid sequence of said protease has main-chain to main-chain hydrogen bonding from Gly 154 to the substrate main-chain.

36. **(Withdrawn)** The protease of Claim 11, wherein said protease comprises three disulfide bonds.

37. **(Withdrawn)** The protease of Claim 11, wherein said variant has an altered substrate specificity as compared to wild-type *Cellulomonas* 69B4 protease.

38. **(Withdrawn)** The protease of Claim 11, wherein said variant has an altered pI as compared to wild-type *Cellulomonas* 69B4 protease.

39. **(Withdrawn)** The protease of Claim 11, wherein said variant has improved stability as compared to wild-type *Cellulomonas* 69B4 protease.

40. **(Withdrawn)** The protease of Claim 11, wherein said variant exhibits an altered surface property.

41. **(Withdrawn)** The protease of Claim 40, wherein said variant comprises mutations at least one substitution at sites selected from the group consisting of 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 22, 24, 25, 32, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 57, 59, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 71, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 95, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 123, 124, 126, 127, 128, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 137, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 170, 171, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, and 184.

42. **(Withdrawn)** The protease of Claim 1, wherein said protease is a variant protease having at least one improved property as compared to wild-type protease.

43. **(Withdrawn)** The protease of Claim 42, wherein said at least one improved property is selected from the group consisting of acid stability, thermostability, casein hydrolysis, keratin hydrolysis, cleaning performance, and LAS stability.

44-47. *(Canceled)*

48. *(Withdrawn)* A variant protease comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, and 78,

49. *(Withdrawn)* The variant protease of Claim 42, wherein said amino acid sequence is encoded by a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, and 77.

50-59. *(Canceled)*

60. *(Withdrawn)* A variant serine protease, wherein said protease comprises at least one substitution corresponding to the amino acid positions in SEQ ID NO:8, and wherein said variant protease has better performance in at least one property selected from the group consisting of keratin hydrolysis, thermostability, casein activity, LAS stability, and cleaning, as compared to wild-type *Cellulomonas* 69B4 protease.

61-69. *(Canceled)*

70. *(Previously Presented)* A cleaning composition comprising the serine protease of claim 1.

71. *(Original)* The cleaning composition of Claim 70, wherein said protease is a serine protease obtained from an organism selected from the group consisting of *Cellulomonas*, *Oerskovia*, *Cellulosimicrobium*, *Xylanibacterium*, and *Promicromonospora*.

72. *(Original)* The cleaning composition of Claim 71, wherein said protease is obtained from *Cellulomonas* 69B4.

73. *(Original)* The cleaning composition of Claim 72, wherein said protease comprises the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:8.

74. *(Canceled)*

75. ***(Previously Presented)*** A cleaning composition comprising a serine protease, wherein said serine protease has immunological cross-reactivity with the serine protease of Claim 70.

76. ***(Previously Presented)*** A cleaning composition comprising a serine protease, wherein said serine protease has immunological cross-reactivity with the serine protease of Claim 72.

77. ***(Withdrawn)*** The cleaning composition of Claim 70, wherein said protease is a variant protease having an amino acid sequence comprising at least one substitution of an amino acid made at a position equivalent to a position in SEQ ID NO:8.

78. ***(Previously Presented)*** The cleaning composition of Claim 77, wherein said substitution is made at a position equivalent to position 2, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 24, 26, 31, 33, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 43, 46, 49, 51, 54, 61, 64, 65, 67, 70, 71, 76, 78, 79, 81, 83, 85, 86, 90, 93, 99, 100, 105, 107, 109, 112, 113, 116, 118, 119, 121, 123, 127, 145, 155, 159, 160, 163, 165, 170, 174, 179, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, or 188 in SEQ ID NO:8.

79. ***(Previously Presented)*** The cleaning composition of Claim 77, wherein said substitution is made at a position equivalent to position 1, 4, 22, 27, 28, 30, 32, 41, 47, 48, 55, 59, 63, 66, 69, 75, 77, 80, 84, 87, 88, 89, 92, 96, 110, 111, 114, 115, 117, 128, 134, 144, 143, 146, 151, 154, 156, 158, 161, 166, 176, 177, 181, 182, 187, or 189, in SEQ ID NO:8.

80. ***(Previously Presented)*** The cleaning composition of Claim 77, wherein said protease comprises at least one amino acid substitution at position 14, 16, 35, 36, 65, 75, 76, 79, 123, 127, 159, or 179, in an equivalent amino acid sequence to that set forth in SEQ ID NO:8.

81. ***(Original)*** The cleaning composition of Claim 80, wherein said protease comprises at least one mutation selected from the group consisting of R14L, R16I, R16L, R16Q, R35F, T36S, G65Q, Y75G, N76L, N76V, R79T, R123L, R123Q, R127A, R127K, R127Q, R159K, R159Q, and R179Q.

82. **(Original)** The cleaning composition of Claim 81, wherein said protease comprises a set of mutations selected from the group consisting of the sets R16Q/R35F/R159Q, R16Q/R123L, R14L/R127Q/R159Q, R14L/R179Q, R123L/R127Q/R179Q, R16Q/R79T/R127Q, and R16Q/R79T.

83. **(Original)** The cleaning composition of Claim 81, wherein said protease comprises the following mutations R123L, R127Q, and R179Q.

84. **(Withdrawn)** The cleaning composition of Claim 80, wherein said variant serine protease comprises at least one substitution corresponding to the amino acid positions in SEQ ID NO:8, and wherein said variant protease has better performance in at least one property selected from the group consisting of keratin hydrolysis, thermostability, casein activity, LAS stability, and cleaning, as compared to wild-type *Cellulomonas* 69B4 protease.

85. **(Withdrawn)** The cleaning composition of Claim 70, wherein said variant protease comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, and 78,

86. **(Withdrawn)** The cleaning composition of Claim 70, wherein said variant protease amino acid sequence is encoded by a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, and 77.

87. **(Withdrawn)** A cleaning composition comprising a cleaning effective amount of a proteolytic enzyme, said enzyme comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 70 % sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:4, and a suitable cleaning formulation.

88. **(Withdrawn)** The cleaning composition of Claim 87, further comprising one or more additional enzymes or enzyme derivatives selected from the group consisting of proteases, amylases, lipases, mannanases, pectinases, cutinases, oxidoreductases, hemicellulases, and cellulases.

89. *(Original)* A composition comprising the serine protease of Claim 1 and at least one stabilizing agent.

90. *(Original)* The composition of Claim 89, wherein said stabilizing agent is selected from the group consisting of borax, glycerol, and competitive inhibitors.

91. *(Original)* The composition of Claim 90, wherein said competitive inhibitors stabilize said serine protease to anionic surfactants.

92. *(Withdrawn)* The composition of Claim 1, wherein said serine protease is an autolytically stable variant.

93. *(Canceled)*

94. *(Canceled)*

95. *(Currently Amended)* [[A]] The cleaning composition according to Claim 93, said composition comprising a sufficient amount of a pH modifier to provide said composition with a neat pH of from about 3 to about 5, said composition being essentially free of materials that hydrolyze at a pH of from about 3 to about 5.

96. *(Currently Amended)* [[A]] The cleaning composition according to Claim 95, wherein said materials that hydrolyze comprise a surfactant material.

97. *(Currently Amended)* [[A]] The cleaning composition according to Claim 95, said cleaning composition being a liquid composition.

98. *(Currently Amended)* [[A]] The cleaning composition according to Claim 96, wherein said surfactant material comprises a sodium alkyl sulfate surfactant that comprises an ethylene oxide moiety.

99. *(Currently Amended)* A cleaning composition that comprises at least one acid stable enzyme, said cleaning composition comprising a sufficient amount of a pH modifier to

provide said composition with a neat pH of from about 3 to about 5, said composition being essentially free of materials that hydrolyze at a pH of from about 3 to about 5, and wherein said acid stable enzyme is stable at a neat pH of from about 3 to about 5.

100. *(Currently Amended)* [[A]] The cleaning composition according to Claim 99, wherein said materials that hydrolyze comprise a surfactant material.

101. *(Currently Amended)* [[A]] The cleaning composition according to Claim 99, said cleaning composition being a liquid composition.

102. *(Currently Amended)* [[A]] The cleaning composition according to Claim 99, wherein said surfactant material comprises a sodium alkyl sulfate surfactant that comprises an ethylene oxide moiety.

103. *(Canceled)*

104. *(Canceled)*

105. *(Currently Amended)* [[A]] The composition according to Claim 95, said composition comprising from about 0.001 to about 0.5 weight % of ASP SEQ ID NO:8.

106. *(Currently Amended)* [[A]] The composition according to Claim 105, said composition comprising from about 0.01 to about 0.1 weight percent of ASP SEQ ID NO:8.

107. *(Canceled)*

108. *(Canceled)*

109. *(Withdrawn)* An animal feed comprising the serine protease of Claim 1.

110. *(Previously Presented)* The composition of Claim 70, said composition being a granule cleaning composition, powder cleaning composition, or tablet cleaning composition.

111. ***(Previously Presented)*** The composition of Claim 110, said composition comprising a bleaching material.

112. ***(Previously Presented)*** The composition of Claim 110, said composition being a granule cleaning composition.

113. ***(Previously Presented)*** The composition of Claim 110, said composition being a powder cleaning composition.

114. ***(Previously Presented)*** The composition of Claim 110, said composition being a tablet cleaning composition.

[Remainder of page intentionally left blank]